

What is claimed is:

1. A method for determining whether a person is at a particular location, comprising the steps of:

periodically transmitting a unique signal;  
receiving said signal in a base station;  
processing said unique signal within the base station;  
correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;  
further correlating said record to said person;  
recording a receipt of said unique signal in said record; and  
recording a failure to receive said unique signal in said record.

2. A method for determining whether a person is at a particular location, comprising the steps of:

periodically transmitting a unique signal;  
receiving said signal in a base station;  
processing said unique signal within the base station;  
correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;  
further correlating said record to said person;  
recording a receipt of said unique signal in said record;  
recording a failure to receive said unique signal in said record;  
initiating a wire line telephone call to the local telephone network controller;  
uploading said base station database into a network database; and  
disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said signal is emitted using a transmitter in the form of a card that fits into a wallet.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said signal is emitted using a transmitter in the form of a fob that can be attached to a keychain.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said signal is received using a base station combined with a telephone into a single unit.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said signal is received using a base station comprising a self-contained unit separate from a telephone.

7. A method for processing an incoming telephone call comprising the steps of :

periodically transmitting a unique signal;

receiving said signal in a base station;

processing said unique signal within the base station;

correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;

further correlating said record to a person;

recording a receipt of said signal in said record;

recording a failure to receive said signal in said record;

initiating a wire line telephone call to the local telephone network controller;

uploading said base station database into a network database;

disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;

receiving an incoming telephone call;

checking the network database to determine whether said telephone call is to a telephone number associated with a record in the network database;

checking the network database to determine whether a person being called is home; and

permitting the telephone call to be completed only if the person being called is home.

8. The method according to claim 1, utilizing a plurality of telephone numbers that may be accessed via one telephone line.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of associating said household member with one or more of said specific telephone numbers.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of detecting which of the plurality of telephone numbers is being called.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of using voice recognition technology to identify said person being called.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of using touch tone means to identify said person being called.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of giving an appearance to a caller that a telephone is ringing without being answered.

14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring a caller to a voice mailbox upon a determination that the person being called is not home.

15. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring a caller to a predetermined alternate telephone number upon a determination that the person being called is not home.

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of giving a caller an opportunity to select another call recipient upon a determination that the person being called is not home.

17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting a call waiting signal to be given only if the person being called is home.

18. A method for restricting completion of a telephone call to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is present, comprising the steps of

periodically transmitting a unique signal;

receiving said signal in a base station;

processing said unique signal within the base station;

correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;

further correlating said record to a person;

recording a receipt of said signal in said record;

recording a failure to receive said signal in said record;

initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;  
uploading said base station database into a network database;  
disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;  
maintaining a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls;

maintaining, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted outbound telephone numbers;

receiving an outbound telephone call;

checking the network database to determine whether said outbound telephone call is from one of said subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on outbound telephone calls;

checking the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers to determine whether a number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;

checking a network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present; and

permitting said outbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

20. The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted outbound telephone numbers.

21. The method according to claim 18, wherein the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

23. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

24. The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted outbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

25. A method for restricting completion of a telephone call to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a required person is at a present, comprising the steps of:

periodically transmitting a unique signal;

receiving said signal in a base station;

processing said unique signal within the base station;

correlating said unique signal to a record in a base station database;

further correlating said record to said household member;

recording a receipt of said signal in said record;

recording a failure to receive said signal in said record;

initiating a wire line telephone call to a local telephone network controller;

uploading said base station database into a network database;

disconnecting said telephone call to the local telephone network controller;

maintaining a database of at least one subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

maintaining, for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls, a list of at least one restricted inbound telephone numbers;

receiving an inbound telephone call;

checking the network database to determine whether said inbound telephone call is to a subscriber telephone number that has restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

checking the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to determine whether said inbound telephone call to said subscriber telephone number being called may be completed only if at least one required person is present;

checking a network database to determine whether said at least one required person is present; and

permitting said inbound telephone call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of uploading said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers to the local telephone network controller whenever there is a change to said list of restricted inbound telephone numbers.

28. The method according to claim 25, wherein the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the local telephone network controller.

29. The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers by telephoning a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

30. The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers by electronic mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.



31. The method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of updating the list of restricted inbound telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

32. The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of playing an announcement to a caller explaining that said inbound telephone call cannot be completed if said at least one required person is not present.

33. The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of returning to the caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing without being answered if said at least one required person is not present.

34. The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of automatically transferring a caller to a voice mailbox if said at least one required person is not present.

35. The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of transferring a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone number if said at least one required person is not present.

36. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
maintaining a network database of telephone numbers for emergency service providers; and  
always permitting a telephone call from said emergency service providers to be completed.

37. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
maintaining a list of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers; and  
always permitting a telephone call from the telephone numbers in said  
unrestricted inbound telephone number list to be completed.

38. The method according to claim 37, wherein said list of unrestricted  
inbound telephone numbers is maintained within the base station.

39. The method according to claim 38, further comprising the step of  
uploading said list of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers to the local telephone  
network controller whenever there is a change to said list of unrestricted inbound  
telephone numbers.

40. The method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of  
maintaining said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers within local  
telephone network controller.

41. The method according to claim 40, further comprising the step of  
updating said database of unrestricted inbound telephone numbers by telephoning a  
customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

42. The method according to claim 40, further comprising the step of  
updating said database of unrestricted incoming telephone numbers by electronic mail  
to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

43. The system according to claim 40, further comprising the step of updating said database of unrestricted incoming telephone numbers by mail to a customer service department within a local telephone network provider.

44. A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low comprising the steps of:

periodically transmitting a unique signal; and  
receiving said unique signal in a base station;  
processing said unique signal within the base station; and  
activating a light on said base station.

45. A method for indicating when a battery on a transmitter is low comprising the steps of:

periodically transmitting a unique signal;  
receiving said signal in a base station;  
processing said unique signal within the base station;  
initiating a telephone call to a local telephone network controller;  
uploading information regarding a low battery strength to said local telephone network controller; and  
initiating a telephone call to a person associated with said transmitter to advise said person of the low battery strength of said transmitter.